Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00276 091538Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05

ACDA-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 /099 W

----- 034298

O R 091420Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8049

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UL

COMMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00276 091538Z

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 0276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: MILITARY AND POLITICAL CLASHES HIGHLIGHT EVENTS

REF: BEIRUT 00224 (1455Z)

- 1. SUMMARY: BOTH RIGHTISTS AND PALESTINIANS CLAIM VICTORIES IN CLASHES AROUND TEL ZAATAR. ONLY THING CLEAR IS THAT BATTLE IS UNDIMINISHED IN FEROCITY. EFFORTS TO WORK OUT CEASE-FIRE HAD MADE VIRTUALLY NO HEADWAY AS OF MID-DAY JAN 9. THERE ARE HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT FRANGIE MAY MEET SYRIAN PRES ASAD SOON, BUT OTHERWISE POLITICAL SCENE NOT BRIGHT. THERE WAS PUBLIC FLARE-UP OF DARAME-CHAMOUN FEUD EVENING JAN 8. END SUMMARY.
- 2. WITH GENERAL COMMANDS OF BOTH FACTIONS CLAIMING SUB-STANTIAL GAINS IN EASTERN SUBURBS AND CONTROL OF LARGE AREAS, SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTIONS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM. ARMY COMMANDER OF MOUNT LEBANON SAYS THAT PHALANGISTS AND THEIR ALLIES HAVE REOCCUPIED TABET FOREST SECTOR OF SIN EL FIL. ONE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE (ISF) SOURCE STATES, HOW-EVER, THAT THE LINES HAVE NEVER REALLY CHANGED SINCE FIGHTING BEGAN. THIS IS ALSO IMPRESSION PROVIDED BY AN AMERICAN NEWSMAN. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS ARE NOT MUCH HELP EITHER AS THEY LINE UP A CCORDING TO POLITICAL SLANT.
- 3. WHATEVER THE CASE, A LOT OF AMMO IS BEING SPENT AS USUAL TROUBLE SPOTS OF TEL ZAATAR-SIN EL FIL, DEKWANEH; NABAA-ASHRAFIYEH; HADATH-LEILAKI; CHIAH-AIN EL-RUMANNEH, HAZMIEH HAVE BEEN GOING AT IT FAST AND FURIOUS. HEAVY EXPLOSIONS AND MACHINE GUN FIRE COULD BE HEARD MILES AWAY DURING NIGHT JAN 8-9. ISF SOURCES SAYS IT WAS THE WORST NIGHT IN NINE MONTHS.
- 4. SEVERAL SOURCES STATE THAT ARMY AND ISF HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN FIGHTING NEAR TEL ZAATAR ON DAMASCUS HIGHWAY BORDERING CHIAH-AIN ELRUMANNEH. THIS OCCURRED WHEN LEFTISTS ATTEMPTED THRUST TO REOPEN ROADS TO CAMPS WHICH STILL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00276 091538Z

APPEAR TO BE CUT OFF. IT IS AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT UNITS WERE ACTIVELY AIDING PHALANGISTS, AS LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIANS CHARGE, OR SIMPLY FOUND THEMSELVES IN SITUATION WHERE ONLY SOLUTION WAS TO SHOOT BACK.

5. THE EMBASSY NEIGHBORHOOD IS STILL QUIET, THOUGH LOCAL NASSERITE MILITIA IS NOW PATROLLING STREETS OF AIN MREISSE. NASSERITE MEETING JAN 8 UNDER MOURABITOUN LEADER IBRAHIM

QULAYLAT SEEMINGLY DID NOT ARRIVE AT DECISION TO REOCCUPY HOTEL-AIN MREISSE DISTRICT. ALL THE NASSERITE GROUPS CLAIM TO BE INVOLVED IN THE TEL ZAATAR BATTLE, SO THIS MAY BE A FACTOR

6. AS OF 1300, FIGHTING IN EASTERN SUBURBS CONTINUES.
BEIRUT RADIO IS CALLING ALL STREETS "TOTALLY DANGEROUS"
WHICH IS STRONGEST WARNING WE CAN RECALL YET. WITH EXCEPTION OF SO FAR MINOR CONFRONTATION IN TRIPOLI AREA, REST OF LEBANON IS QUIET.

7. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN BEIRUT REMAINS LIGHT. RADIO ISRAEL REPORTS THAT BEIRUT AIRPORT CLOSED ARE UNTRUE, ALTHOUGH MEA CATERING FACILITIES DID TAKE TWO OR THREE STRAY ROUNDS

8. EFFORTS TO ARRANGE CEASEFIRE STILL CENTER ON MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFIARS GHASSAN TUEINI, BUT NO BREAK-THROUGH IS IN SIGHT AS OF MID-DAY JAN 9. HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE WARRING FACTIONS MOST OF JAN 8 BUT WAS UNABLE TO ARRANGE MEETING THAT DAY OF HIGHER COORDINATION COMMITTEE, OFFICIAL OR OTHERWISE. HE IS REPORTEDLY STILL TRYING. HIS PAPER "AN NAHAR" SAID IN AN ARTICLE JAN 9 THAT AIM OF RIGHT-WING BLOCKADERS OF TEL ZAATAR IS TO FORCE RELOCATION OF THIS REFUGEE CAMP AND REOPEN WHOLE QUESTION OF LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS. INTRANSIGENCE OF BOTH SIDES IN BATTLE SUGGESTS THEY TOO SEE THE CAMPAIGN AS POTENTIALLY MAJOR TURNING POINT IN COUNTRY'S CONTINUING CRISIS.

9. ONE HOPEFUL SIGN IS REVELATION THAT LUCIEN DAHDAH, RELATIVE AND CONFIDANT OF FRANGIE, WENT TO DAMASCUS JAN 8 AS EMISSARY OF PRESIDENT. THIS HAS REVIVED SPECULATION THAT PRESIDENTS FRANGIE AND ASAD MAY SOON MEET, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 00276 091538Z

POSSIBLY IN TOWN OF CHTAURA ON BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD. POLITICAL SCENE OTHERWISE FAR FROM BRIGHT AFTER PUBLIC FLARE-UP LATE JAN BETWEEN INTERIOR MINISTER CHAMOUN AND PREMIER KARAME. CHAMOUN SAID ON TELEVISION THAT THE CABINET SHOULD CALL IN THE ARMY OR RESIGN. THIS PROMPTED KARAME TO TELEPHONE A SHARP REPLY TO THE TELEVSION STATION, WHICH BROADCAST IT IN LATE EVENING. NOTING THAT COUNTRY IS DIVIDED ON ISSUE OF ARMY, KARAME SAID FORCE WILL NOT SOLVE THE CRISIS. HE BLAMED THE COUNTRY'S ILLS ON "CAMILLE" AND "KAMAL", AN ALLUSION TO THE EVER-PRESENT POLITICAL DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND KAMAL JUMBLATT. FOLLOWING THIS ARGUMENT BETWEEN PREMIER AND INTERIOR MINISTER IN FULL VIEW OF TELEVISION AUDIENCE, MANY OBSERVERS ONCE AGAIN QUESTION LONGEVITY OF CABINET.

10. JUMBLATT RETURNED JAN 8 FROM HIS TRIP TO SAUDI
ARABI. AS IF TO SHOW HE HAD NOT LOST HIS TOUCH, HE
IMMEDIATELY ISSUED WIDE-RANGING PUBLIC CRITICISMS OF
CHRISTIAN RIGHTISTS, WHOM HE ACCUSED OF RECEIVING ARMS
AND MONEY FROM ISRAEL. SAUDI LEADERS, JUMBLATT SAID
HAD DISPLAYED GOOD COMPREHENSION OF THE LEBANESE PROBLEM
AND ARE OPPOSED TO PARTITIONING OF THE COUNTRY. UPON ALIGHTING AT BEIRUT AIRPORT, JUMBLATT HAPPENED TO MEET MARONITE
POLITICIAN RAYMOND EDDE WHO WAS ON HIS WAYY TO PARIS AND
NEW YORK. EDDE REPORTEDLY ALSO PLANS TO VISIT MOSCOW
BEFORE RETURING TO LEBANON.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, PROGRESS REPORTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BFIRLIT00276

Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760008-0662

From: BEIRUT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760173/aaaacmtl.tel Line Count: 182 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION NEA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 4

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 BEIRUT 224

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 02 APR 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <05 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MILITARY AND POLITICAL CLASHES HIGHLIGHT EVENTS TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006